

CONCEPT NOTE

THIRD MONITORING AND EVALUATION MEETING TO IDENTIFY TRENDS IN IRREGULAR AND MASS MIGRATION

November 12, 2021

PRECEDENTS

The Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) is a space for dialogue to promote efforts related to effective migration governance, protect the human rights of migrants, and address the main challenges facing the region. Given the presence of irregular migratory flows, the Working Group on Irregular and Mass Migration (WG-IMM) has proposed three Follow-up Meetings, which, in addition to being framed within the activities of the RCM, seek to respond to the Working Group's own mandate, which is to strengthen the governance of mixed migratory flows considering the reality of the region's migratory dynamics, promote strategies and implement actions to prevent irregular migration.

These Follow-up Meetings have also been proposed in response to the request of the Member Countries, whose recommendation of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM) in December 2020 established:

Instruct the four Working Groups to hold quarterly meetings to strengthen dialogue on trends, challenges, and exchange of experiences, with a focus on results and shared responsibility.

Based on this context, on April 28, 2021, the First Follow-up and Evaluation Meeting was held virtually to identify trends on irregular and mass migration in the region, with the participation of 57 representatives of the Member Countries.

During the meeting, three topics proposed by the Pro-Tempore Presidency of Mexico were discussed: I) Best practices to discourage irregular and massive migration; II) Strengthening of migration regularization processes and international protection systems; and III) Border management and training for the adequate attention of people in vulnerable situations and for the identification of their needs.

In this exchange of ideas and opinions, special emphasis was placed on the need to attend to migrants urgently and comprehensively under the principles of shared responsibility, respect for human rights, national sovereignty, and international cooperation. Likewise, the Member Countries of the RCM identified irregular and massive flows of people as one of the priorities for attention due to the operational challenges they imply.

Both the ideas and discussions gathered from this exchange, as well as the concern expressed by the participants for a Regional Strategy for Assistance, laid the groundwork for generating a proposal from the WG-MIM to address these migratory flows in a comprehensive and regional manner. Thus, the

Regional Strategy for Attention to Irregular and Massive Migration, hereinafter referred to as the Strategy, was created.

This document was presented to the Member Countries on October 1, 2021 at the Second Follow-up and Evaluation Meeting, at which all the components of the Strategy were submitted for discussion and analysis. Likewise, a period of ten working days was established after the Meeting to receive written comments to incorporate them and generate a consensual version. It is worth mentioning the effort and commitment of the Member Countries for the revision of the Strategy, thanks to their broad experience and knowledge on the subject, important contributions were received which were taken up again in the document, thus generating a new version of the Strategy, limited to the specific scope of the mandate of this Working Group and which will be presented at the meeting.

JUSTIFICATION

The challenge of irregular and massive migration is to guarantee adequate attention, protection, and management of these migratory flows, with full respect for the rights of migrants regardless of their migratory status, in observance of the sovereignty of the countries involved in the attention.

The actions to attend to these flows are framed within the sovereignty of the Member Countries of the RCM and their installed capacities, but at the same time, it is urgent that these regional and extra-regional migratory flows receive humanitarian attention and timely follow-up on their trends.

To this end, interdependence and co-responsibility among countries is fundamental and it is necessary to have regional mechanisms to address the phenomena of human mobility with shared methodologies and to be prepared to face new challenges, such as migration management in crisis situations.

In this regard, it is imperative to combat the factors that provoke irregular migration, strengthen the procedures through which attention is provided to migrants and those in need of international protection, and work on border management in accordance with each country's regulations.

Based on the above and as a measure of shared responsibility among the Member Countries, to strengthen the capacity to respond to the presence of irregular and massive flows in the region, we need to have accurate and updated information that allows us to provide optimal and comprehensive care, with a gender and human rights perspective, giving priority to the best interests of children. To this end, the *Regional Strategy for Attention to Irregular and Massive Migration* proposes the consolidation of the "Follow-up Meetings to Identify Trends on Irregular and Massive Migration" as a space specifically designed for the exchange of statistical and intelligence information provided by the members of the WG-IMM to generate actions for regional attention to irregular migration.

This Strategy incorporates the discussions and ideas raised throughout the year 2021 in the various activities carried out by the WG-IMM, therefore, it has an approach that includes the voices of the various stakeholders, particularly the governments of the Member Countries, and responds to the need to share



strategic information that facilitates the management of their borders and gives a tool for regional migration governance.

Therefore, it is essential to take advantage of this space for dialogue and exchange to respond efficiently to the complexity of the phenomenon of irregular migration in the region, based on updated knowledge of the dynamics and behavior of irregular flows in order to address the phenomenon in a regional, coordinated manner, through specific solutions according to the conditions in which each country faces it and in compliance with its internal regulations, but with a regional approach and scope. All of this, under the premise that attention to massive flows of migrants must be carried out in a coordinated manner and based on close communication between the Member Countries.

GENERAL OBJETIVE

Present and analyze the proposal of the Regional Strategy for Attention to Irregular and Massive Migration, which seeks to strengthen the response capacity of the Member Countries to the presence of irregular and massive flows in their territories, by having accurate and updated information that allows them to provide optimal and comprehensive attention, with a gender and human rights perspective, giving priority to the best interests of children.

METHODOLOGY

The modality will be virtual, in a round table format with a duration of two hours. The dialogue will be moderated and facilitated by PPT Mexico with the support of the Executive Secretariat of the RCM. This session will be divided into two parts. In the first part, the content of the proposed Regional Strategy for Attention will be presented, which will be previously sent for review. The intention is to generate feedback on the content, as well as to identify elements, good practices and aspects in general that can be incorporated to continue strengthening this proposal. Member Countries are expected to make any contribution or comment they consider pertinent with respect to the proposed Strategy.

In the second part of the session, representatives of the governments of Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama will provide an overview of the situation of irregular migration at the regional level and in the context of the pandemic. During this time, specific interventions from the MPs are also expected, seeking to contribute to the information that will be shared and trying to respond to the thematic axes that will guide the three participations, which are shared below.

1. Changes or trends in irregular migration at the national and regional levels during 2021.
2. Challenges and strategies to address irregular migration at the country level during 2021. (With special emphasis on the health aspect and the COVID-19 pandemic.)
3. Prospective on irregular and mass migration for 2022.
4. Recommendations and experiences for the generation of regional actions to address irregular migration.



Once the activity is concluded, the Member Countries will have 5 working days to send comments to the last version of the Strategy proposal, if they consider it pertinent, to be incorporated and have a consolidated version of the Strategy that can be presented as a result in the meetings of the Working Groups and the RCGM.

The Strategy, as it has been developed collectively and intergovernmental and responds to the objective of consolidating the exchange of information at this level, will not be submitted for consideration by the observer organizations that are part of the RCM, unless so agreed at the Third Meeting.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The objective of this meeting is to continue generating spaces for intergovernmental dialogue to discuss actions for attention and protection based on cooperation between countries, which on this occasion will be contained in the Strategy to be presented. We invite public servants who are decision makers and who have the necessary information to generate updated and detailed exchanges on irregular mass flows; preferably, who have experience in the design of joint strategies for attention to migration.

The participation of the persons in charge of the WG-IMM in each country is also expected. We respectfully request the participation of no more than 4 persons per-country.

Since so far, the meetings have been agreed as a space for intergovernmental dialogue, international organizations and civil society will not be convened.

AGENDA

Date: November 12, 2021

Time: 14:00-16:00 h (CDMX)

Duration	Topics	Coordinate/participate
10 minutes	Opening of the meeting and Welcome.	PPT/ ES CRM
50 minutes	Presentation and discussion of the latest version of the <i>Regional Strategy for attention to irregular and massive migration.</i>	PPT/Member Countries - RCM
30 minutes	Participation of representatives of the governments of Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama.	Moderator ES RCM
20 minutes	Space for the participation of Member Countries.	Moderator ES RCM
10 minutes	Recommendations and conclusions.	PPT/ ES RCM